



The Point:

By the Lord's strength people should be able to follow me as I follow Christ.

The Outline:

- A. Philippians 2:19-24 (Timothy the Faithful Servant)
- B. Philippians 2:25-30 (Epaphroditus the Bold Sufferer)

RELATE:

-Has there been a person in your life that you could say would be like a Paul, Timothy, or Epaphroditus to you? Who are they and what kind of effect did they have on your life?

REFLECT:

-What were some different ways that Paul referred to Timothy (check out Romans 16:21; 1 Cor. 4:17; Phil. 1:1; 1 Thess. 3:2; 1 Tim. 1:2; 2 Tim. 1:2)? Are there any that encouraged you, stood out to you, or surprised you? If so Why?

-Do you see yourself as more of a Philippians 1:21 or Philippians 2:21 type of Christian? What do you think your closest friends and family think of you as? Why?

-Timothy was a genuinely concerned for other believers well being (v20), sought the interests of Jesus Christ (v21), and had proven himself faithful in proclaiming the Gospel (v22). What one of these three areas do you struggle the most with? Why do you think that is?

-List and describe the five characteristics given of Epaphroditus in verse 25?

-Which one of the five words listed above best describe what people think of you? Which one would they say that you might need the most work on?



-What are some Bible verses that we can lean on as we seek to listen to and obey the Lord when He leads us into and through situations that we may be uncomfortable with? (Note how Paul was uncomfortable under house arrest, Timothy was willing to do anything that Paul needed him to do, and Epaphroditus almost died fulfilling his God ordained call.)

-Read I Peter 4:10-11 and Ephesians 4:15-16. How do these verses connect to the witness about Timothy and Epaphroditus? What encouraging principles about service do you gain from these passages?

-How do we protect ourselves from becoming like the Pharisees in regards to doing good works that appear righteous on the outside but are man centered on the inside (see: Matthew 23;28-28) as we attempt to live more Christ centered lives?

-How will you be a Paul, Titus, or Epaphroditus to this week?

RESPOND:

- Pray that the Lord would empower you to serve others in the body in tangible ways
- Pray that the needs of your own group would be met
- Ask that God would create a heart of service and selflessness in each of you

-Local Focus: Pray for South Hill Bible Church and Pastor John Underhill. Pray for pastor John (currently serving as interim pastor) and the whole congregation as they search for their next Sr. pastor. Ask that God would give unity of purpose and mind in the search process, and peace to the entire body.